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Web Audio: http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/2005/multimedia/ui_mar05_state.mp3

MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Adjusted Data

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 4.6 percent in March, the lowest March rate since 2001. The February seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated to be 4.9 percent, while March of 2004 was estimated to have been 5.3 percent. The State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has not been below 4.6 percent since October of 2001. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was estimated at 5.2 percent, while the U.S. rate for February was 5.4 percent. The March 2004 national rate was estimated at 5.7 percent.

March employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available April 20, 2005. This release also is available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/>.

Unadjusted Data

The state's non-adjusted preliminary March 2005 rate showed improvement over the prior month and over one year ago. The March 2005 was estimated at 5.5 percent compared to 5.8 percent in February and 6.2 percent in March of 2004. The national non-adjusted rate was reported at 5.4 percent in March of 2005, 5.8 percent in February of 2005, and 6.0 percent in March of 2004. Wisconsin's non-adjusted unemployment rate is normally lower than the U.S. rate, except in the winter months, particularly February and March.

"Total jobs for last month were the highest they have been in the month of March in four years," Secretary Gassman said. "The continued positive labor market information is a good sign, but there are still several parts of the state experiencing hardships with regard to the job market."

Wisconsin's nonfarm wage and salary jobs were estimated to be 2,776,100 in March, up 31,800 from March 2004. That is the highest March job total since March 2001. March also marks the fifteenth month in a row with over-the-year increases.

Most major industries showed increases over March 2004, including construction, manufacturing, trade, transportation, information, financial activities, education and health care services, leisure and hospitality, and government. There were slight decreases in "professional and business services" and the "other services" sectors. There were 2,760,300 Wisconsin nonfarm wage and salary jobs in February.

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	PRELIM. MAR 05	FINAL FEB 05	YEAR AGO MAR 04	NET CHANGE FROM	
				MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA	NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES				
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3027.6	3046.1	3060.2	-18.5	-32.6
UNEMPLOYMENT	165.3	176.6	190.7	-11.3	-25.4
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5.5	5.8	6.2	-0.3	-0.7
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2862.3	2869.5	2869.5	-7.2	-7.2
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2776.1	2760.3	2744.3	15.8	31.8
TOTAL PRIVATE	2352.9	2338.5	2322.3	14.4	30.6
GOODS PRODUCING	619.3	614.8	608.7	4.5	10.6
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3.1	2.9	3.3	0.2	-0.2
CONSTRUCTION	115.3	113.5	110.9	1.8	4.4
MANUFACTURING	500.9	498.4	494.5	2.5	6.4
Durable Goods	312.4	311.4	306.6	1.0	5.8
Nondurable Goods	188.5	187	187.9	1.5	0.6
SERVICE PRODUCING	2156.8	2145.5	2135.6	11.3	21.2
TRADE	422.6	422.1	420.5	0.5	2.1
Wholesale Trade	114.3	113.8	112.4	0.5	1.9
Retail Trade	308.3	308.3	308.1	0.0	0.2
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	106	105.5	104.2	0.5	1.8
Utilities	11.4	11.4	11.4	0.0	0.0
Information	51	50.3	49.9	0.7	1.1
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	157.3	156.9	156.7	0.4	0.6
Finance and Insurance	130.2	129.5	130.2	0.7	0.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	27.1	27.4	26.5	-0.3	0.6
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	243.2	239.9	243.3	3.3	-0.1
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	87.4	86.4	89.5	1.0	-2.1
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	38.4	38.3	39.9	0.1	-1.5
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	117.4	115.2	113.9	2.2	3.5
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	383.9	383.3	372	0.6	11.9
Educational Services	53.9	53.8	47.1	0.1	6.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	330	329.5	324.9	0.5	5.1
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	235.9	232.7	232.6	3.2	3.3
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	28.3	27.6	28.3	0.7	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	207.6	205.1	204.3	2.5	3.3
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	133.7	133	134.4	0.7	-0.7
GOVERNMENT	423.2	421.8	422	1.4	1.2
Federal Government	29.2	29.1	29.2	0.1	0.0
State Government	104.5	103.9	102.4	0.6	2.1
Local Government	289.5	288.8	290.4	0.7	-0.9
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(1) Includes L-M Disputes					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3051.8	3071.1	3075.8	-19.3	-24.0
UNEMPLOYMENT	140.6	150.1	162.3	-9.5	-21.7
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.6	4.9	5.3	-0.3	-0.7
EMPLOYMENT	2911.2	2921.0	2913.5	-9.8	-2.3

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information